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MRS. ANNA MARGARET LANGE JAMES.
DEATH OF THE WIFE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS.

On the eve of the home-coming celebration at the University of Illinois, news of the death of Mrs. Anna Margaret Lange James, wife of the president of the university, cast a shadow over the affair. Death came Friday afternoon, November 13, 1914, at the North Shore sanitarium, Winnetka, Illinois. By the special request of the president, sent to Dr. Phelps, his executive clerk, none of the plans for the celebration were changed. It was Dr. James' wish that the games and other events be carried on just as planned.

At the request of President James, announcement of his wife's death was withheld until after the alumni mass meeting. When he asked that the home-coming program be carried out he said:

"This would have been the wish of my wife."

The president and his daughter Helen were at the bedside when death came. They were called at noon.

Mrs. James had been in failing health for nearly a year. For the last few months her condition had been grave. Death was expected momentarily. The heart of every friend of the university goes out to the president and his family in their hour of bereavement.

Besides her husband, Mrs. James is survived by two sons and a daughter, Anthony John, a lieutenant in the United States Navy; Herman G. James, associate professor of political science in the University of Texas; and Helen Dixon James.

The funeral took place Monday, November 16, 1914, from the auditorium of the university. Dr. Harry Pratt Judson,



ANNA MARGARETHE LANGE,
Wife of Edmund Janes James, President of the
University of Illinois.

president of the University of Chicago; Dr. A. W. Harris, president of Northwestern University; leading educators of the middle west; the faculty and students of the University of Illinois and many townspeople were present.

The service began at 3:00 o'clock. A military escort accompanied the cortege to the auditorium and to the cemetery. The escort was composed of the commissioned officers of both the student regiments. Director Erb of the school of music presided at the organ and played the dirge. A quartet composed of professors of vocal culture at the university led the music.

Rev. F. B. Heibert, pastor of the Lutheran church of Champaign, and Rev. J. M. Page, of the University Episcopal church, assisted in the service. Rev. James C. Baker, pastor of Trinity Methodist Episcopal church, delivered the funeral address, interment followed immediately at Mount Hope cemetery.

The honorary pall-bearers included many distinguished men. They were: A. W. Harris, Evanston; H. P. Judson, Chicago; Thomas F. Holgate, Evanston; F. G. Blair, Springfield; J. C. Shafer, Evanston; William A. Dyche, Evanston; Charles M. Stuart, Evanston; James A. Patten, Evanston; T. J. Smith, W. L. Abbott, W. F. M. Goss, J. R. Trevett, T. J. Burrill, J. O. Cunningham, C. M. Moss, W. B. McKinley, M. W. Busey, S. A. Forbes, N. C. Ricker, I. O. Baker, B. F. Harris, E. Davenport, H. B. Ward.

Active pall-bearers were: David Kinley, T. A. Clark, E. L. Heintz, E. B. Greene, Otto Lessing, H. J. Van den Berg.

Besides the presidents of the two Illinois universities, some of the more prominent out of town attendants were: Mrs. Charles Davison, Mrs. Charles S. Bacon, Dean George P. Dryer, Prof. Albert C. Eychleshymer, Prof. and Mrs. Charles S. Williamson, Prof. and Mrs. Adolph Gehrmann, Prof. Julius Hess, Prof. Edward L. Heintz, Supt. William H. Browne, Prof. and Mrs. Thomas F. Holgate, Prof. and Mrs. James A. James, Prof. A. W. Patten, Mrs. P. C. Lutkin, Prof. S. P. Starr, Prof. L. E. Baker, Prof. F. J. Bernard.

The secret of such success as President James may have had is largely to be found in Mrs. James, according to their closest friends.

She was a remarkable woman, all the more remarkable because she steadily refused to come into the limelight at any time in the long career of her married life with President James, now more than thirty-five years, while she was really the inspiration, the driving wheel in many respects, the governor of the machine during all of this period.

She was a German by birth and training; for she was a woman grown when she came to this country to marry Dr. James, who was then principal of the high school in the Illinois State Normal University at Bloomington. She was born near Halle, Germany, where President James met her while a student at the University of Halle. She was the daughter of a Lutheran clergyman whose service included Schochwitz and Hoshnstedt, two small parishes near the city of Halle. As the child of a minister in the established church of Prussia, she had the social and intellectual advantages of a cultivated society and the best school and home training open to the girls of her time. Her earliest schooling was obtained with the children of the lord of the manor, Herr von Alvensleben, a distinguished member of one of the oldest noble families in Prussia. He, in common with the men of his class, employed private tutors for his own children during their early years and invited such other children to enter the home classes as he desired. Mrs. James had this rare opportunity.

She had the usual training of a German girl of her period—home school, boarding school, and cadet residence in cultivated families of her acquaintance. She passed in due course of time the examination for her certificate of high school teacher for girls' schools in Prussia, one of the most exacting of the kind in the country. She had later opportunity for the study of modern languages and history, having passed two years in Lausanne and Paris for the purpose of acquiring French, which she spoke and wrote with a rare fluency. From her residence in France dated a strong affection for the

French people and French literature and a great admiration for the achievements of this remarkable nation. She spoke and wrote English with the fluency of an educated American woman. She also mastered Italian.

As a girl and young woman she had excellent opportunities for acquiring an appreciation of music and skill in execution, having been a student of the famous composer, Robert Franz. She always was also especially devoted to the promotion of the interest in music and language study in whatever institution her husband may have been.

Mrs. James was an enthusiastic, patriotic Prussian and German. She always decorated the house on the emperor's birthday, and unlike many Germans who forget their fatherland and German speech, she trained her children to speak a correct and fluent German and begot in them a lively interest in, and admiration for, the best things in German life and characteristics.

This did not interfere at all with her equally great devotion and enthusiasm for America and things American. In fact her love for Germany and things German only served to increase her love for America. In the children's study hung portraits of Washington and Lincoln, whom she always held before the boys as examples whom they should emulate. One son, Anthony John, is lieutenant in the American navy, just now flag lieutenant to the American Admiral Howard of the Pacific squadron. The second son, Herman Gerlach, is assistant professor of politics and government in the University of Texas, while a third child, a daughter, Helen Dixon, has inherited her mother's ability as a musician, and is developing a voice of rare quality and beauty into one of strength and power. The children, it may be added, have been no mean assistance to their father's success. They have increased his popularity wherever the family has lived—no mean asset for a university president.

Mrs. James came naturally by her literary tastes and ability. Her father was a graduate of the University of Halle, a brilliant preacher and far-famed extemporaneous speaker,

sought eagerly by societies and clubs as the leading orator of festive occasions. He was a chaplain in the Prussian army and a keen and skillful debater in church councils. Her grandfather on her mother's side, William Gerlach, was professor of philosophy in the University of Halle for more than fifty years. He had begun his career as an instructor in Luther's University at Wittenberg when still a young man. He was called to Heidelberg in 1820, as successor to Hegel, the greatest philosopher of his time, when the latter was called to Berlin; but Gerlach took instead the chair at Halle.

Mrs. James' great grandfather and her great, great grandfather were both professors of the classics in the University of Leipzig, where they were important factors in that revival of classical learning in Germany at the end of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth, which did so much to make German universities the center of the world's scientific and educational progress.

Mrs. James believed thoroughly in the emperor's doctrine that *Kinder, Kirche und Kuche*—children, church and cuisine—should form the chief interest of even the modern woman; and yet she recognized that the world is changing, and became of late an earnest advocate of woman suffrage. She educated her own daughter for the highest duties of citizenship which the ballot has brought to woman. She was a successful and devoted housekeeper. She was economical in her housekeeping, for she hated two things in the world, lying and wastefulness. What she saved by her economy and self-denial, she gave away to deserving causes. From her savings over a period of a series of years in the allowance for household expenses she subscribed a thousand dollars toward the building of the Young Men's Christian Association for the students at the University of Illinois, and another five hundred dollars saved in the same way toward the erection of a similar building for the Young Women's Christian Association for the same institution. Both these subscriptions were made at the critical point in the life of these undertakings. They did much toward giving the projects that final impulse which is so necessary

sometimes in such enterprises at strategic moments, and thus helped to carry them both through to triumphant success.

She was an active, ardent worker in the church and church affairs and church interests; and though devoted to her own church, took a keen interest in the work and welfare of all the churches to which students went—Catholic, Protestant and Jewish.

In spite of her early associations and training and intercourse with a small exclusive social circle in an aristocratic country, she was thoroughly democratic. She believed and acted upon her belief that everybody, no matter what his social or political or other station or influence might be, should be tried by the uniform standard of efficiency and honesty, in the largest and fullest sense of that term.

Although by nature an extremely social and hospitable woman, she cared little for social prestige or success in the ordinary sense of that term. She much preferred to spend her leisure time with people who needed her help, rather than cultivate social relations of the ordinary type. She had little interest in the doings of high society, appearing seldom at the social functions of the twin cities. On the other hand, she seldom sat down to lunch or dinner in her own home without having one or two guests, most often from the ranks of the instructors or assistants or their wives, because in the first place she keenly enjoyed such social intercourse herself, and in the second place she felt that it might be of some little service and refreshment to them and "the society people," she often said, "do not need me." She was a grandmother to all the faculty babies. She knew when they were expected and was on hand with some attention to welcome them, and if grief or sorrow came to a young woman she was glad to comfort or assist. She followed the scriptural injunction of rejoicing with them that rejoice and weeping with them that weep. She put her whole life and fortune as fully as the president himself into the work of the University, making it her business to help the assistants and new or younger members of the faculty feel at home in their work and life. Mrs. James had especially

a keen interest in everything relating to the students and their welfare. She was a welcome visitor at their social functions, and was unwearied in her efforts to be of service to them. She always did what she could to establish and maintain high ideals of life among the students. With a rare discretion she also carefully refrained from ever trying to run the university or form the course of university policy. Many have been the attempts as a matter of course to influence the president's action through the unbounded admiration and affection he was known to entertain for her. To such advances she always answered, "I do not attempt to interfere in any way with the conduct of university affairs by my husband. That is his business, not mine. I could not influence him in such matters if I would, and I would not if I could. I trust his good will and good judgment. Let me know how else I can serve you."

All this made her unusually popular wherever she has been. "I am sorry you are going to leave us," said a trustee of Northwestern university, when he learned of the president's decision to go to Illinois. "But if you will leave Mrs. James, I will call it square." And Philadelphia and Chicago re-echoed the same sentiment when President James left the former for Chicago and the latter for Northwestern. All of which goes to show that the old fashioned woman still plays even in our modern society, the fundamental role which has always belonged to her in the community.

As a young woman after marriage, while keeping house without a servant, she learned Latin that she might assist her husband in his work as principal of the high school by correcting his pupils' papers for him, and thus giving him time and leisure to go on with his studies which were fitting him for his later positions as university professor and president. She used to say laughingly, to people who expostulated with her for spending her time that way, "I am grooming my race-horse. He's got to win."

Anna Margaret Lange James came from an old and fixed society into the semi-pioneer country of central Illinois thirty-

five years ago, removed from there to the peaceful circles of the Quaker City and then to the breeziness of the Windy City on the lake, and then to the quiet academic shades of the twin cities in the heart of the corn belt. Everywhere and always her intelligence, sympathy, shrewdness and kindly spirit made her equally at home with all classes and conditions of men and women. With an invitation to the court ball in Berlin a year or two ago came the message that the minister wished to introduce to the emperor a woman who in her own life had exemplified to the people of other nations the qualities which had made the German people great.

Mrs. James had another side. She had a great sense of humor, and her gift at repartee was the source of much amusement and enjoyment to her friends. One of the guests sitting at dinner in Paris, a young Frenchman, was making jokes at the expense of the Germans, and claiming the superiority in every respect for the French, which Mrs. James as adroitly turned, when he ended up with the remark, "Well, madam, you cannot deny that France is ahead of Germany in one respect—France had a Joan of Arc, Germany never produced such a character." "No, in Germany the men do the fighting," was her reply. "We do not have to rely upon women."

Mrs. James had a remarkable memory for names and faces. It is said that she knew and could call by name all of the students on the campus of Northwestern university—nearly two thousand—after a residence of two years.

It is impossible, of course, to know by sight and name any more than a fraction of the thousands of students on the campus of the University of Illinois. The faculty itself has grown so large that it is no small task for any one person to know them. But Mrs. James came as near performing this feat as anyone, except the dean of men himself.

She had the rare quality of utter and complete frankness, combined with a universal sympathy which counteracted the usual unpleasant results of such frankness. "She comes nearer speaking the plain, unvarnished truth at all times and to all people than any person I ever knew," said a long time

friend of her, "and how she does it and still manages to keep the love of friends and the admiration of critics is more than I can understand. It must be because everyone sees and feels the genuine sympathy which she has for every person she meets, and specially for everyone who is in any sort of trouble or anxiety. Her heart goes out to mankind high and low, rich and poor in a truly remarkable way."

It is safe to say that in his determined effort to produce and maintain in the University of Illinois democratic traits and principles in the best sense of the word, among faculty and students, the president has had no more efficient coadjutor than this remarkable woman, who combined in herself the best inheritance of the civilization of the old world, with the keen and open-minded intelligence of the new.

The members of the Illinois State Historical Society extend to President James and his children their deepest sympathy in their bereavement.